

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical pickup device for causing an optical beam to be converged into a recording layer of a recording medium having a plurality of recording layers and receiving reflected light from the recording layer for recording and/or reading comprising:

a light source for emitting a light beam;

a beam expander having a converging lens for converging a light beam, a light-shielding panel having a through-portion located at an optical conjugate point of an emission point of the light beam on a common optical path for the forward light path and the backward light path, and a collimator lens for collimating the light beam passed through the through-portion;

an objective lens for focusing the light beam collimated by the beam expander to the recording layer; and

a light detector for detecting the light beam reflected by the recording medium and passed through the objective lens and the beam expander to generate an error signal for controlling the focusing position and a reading data signal,

~~wherein the light source includes an optical element for generating a main beam and a sub beam, and the light shielding panel includes through portions arranged at optical conjugate positions of the main beam and the sub beam, the through portions corresponding to the main beam and the sub beam, respectively~~

wherein the through-portion of the light-shielding panel, the focusing position of the objective lens, and the light detector are in a conjugate relationship with respect to an emission point of the light beam.

Claim 2 (Original): The optical pickup device according to Claim 1, wherein the beam expander includes a driver for driving the collimator lens in the direction of an optical axis of the light beam for correcting an aberration of the light beam focused to the recording layer.

Claim 3 (Original): The optical pickup device according to Claim 1, wherein the through-portion has a size that can shield reflected light from a recording layer other than the recording layer to which the light beam is focused.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The optical pickup device according to Claim 1, wherein the through-portion corresponding to the sub-beam has a diameter larger than the through-portion corresponding to the main beam.

Claim 6 (Original): The optical pickup device according to Claim 1, comprising a hologram element arranged on an optical path between the light source and the converging lens for introducing the reflected light beam passed through the beam expander to the light detector.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An optical pickup device for causing a light beam to be converged into a recording layer of a recording medium having a plurality of recording layers and receiving reflected light from the recording layer for recording and/or reading comprising:

a beam splitter for splitting an forward optical path from a light source to a recording medium and a backward optical path from a recording medium to a light detector; and

a beam expander for correcting aberration of the light beam focused onto the recording layer,

the beam expander including a converging lens for converging the light beam, a light-shielding panel having a through-portion located at ~~an optical conjugate point of an emission point of the light beam~~ on a common optical path for the forward light path and the backward light path, and a collimator lens for collimating the light beam which is passed through the through-portion,

~~wherein the light source includes an optical element for generating a main beam and a sub beam, and the light shielding panel includes through portions arranged at optical conjugate positions of the main beam and the sub beam, the through portions corresponding to the main beam and the sub beam, respectively~~

wherein the through-portion of the light-shielding panel, the focusing position of the objective lens, and the light detector are in a conjugate relationship with respect to an emission point of the light beam.

Claim 8 (Original): The optical pickup device according to Claim 7, wherein the light-shielding panel allows the reflected light from the recording layer to which the light beam is focused to pass through and shields the reflected light from the defocused recording layer.

Claim 9 (New): The optical pickup device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source includes an optical element for generating a main beam and a sub beam, and the light-shielding panel includes through-portions arranged at optical conjugate positions of the main beam and the sub beam, the through-portions corresponding to the main beam and the sub beam, respectively.